

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 10, 2000 LB 1101-1110
LR 138

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LB 1101-1110 by title for the first time.) That's all that I have at this time, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 187-189.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. At this point, take your conversations off the floor. We will begin today's work. Mr. Clerk, motion on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hudkins, as Chair of the Rules Committee, would move to adopt the permanent rules for the Ninety-Sixth Legislature, Second Session. I do have amendments pending to that motion, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hudkins, to open on the motion to adopt permanent rules.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. If you...you should have gotten a copy of these rules proposed changes on your desk Friday, also delivered to your office about that time, so that will help if you've had a chance to look that over. But the rules proposals that we have before you came about from LR 138. The goal of this resolution was twofold. Number one was to examine the geographic boundaries of the districts that were used to select the members of the Executive Board and the Committee on Committees. And the second part was to consider the appropriate number of members of each committee, how to distribute the workload of the committees more evenly, and determine the number of days that the committees should meet. Because of the redistricting of the legislative boundaries in the near future, the first part, the membership on the Exec Board and the Committee on Committees, was determined to be premature and will not be addressed at this time. Unfortunately, Senator Wickersham could not be here, because this original proposal was, more or less, his idea, so I will try to paraphrase his remarks that were made at the public hearing. Basically, Senator Wickersham said that there are merits to having committees with the most bills having the most members. Time should be allocated to the committees with the greatest workload, and committees should have equal representation from the caucuses. When the rules were changed and we went from four caucuses to three caucuses, obviously, this created additional problems because of the unequal caucus